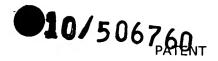
MAT-8596US

1



DT09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 0.8 SEP 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: Applicant:

To Be Assigned Chie Hirai et al.

Filed:

Herewith

Title:

TC/A.U.: Examiner: REFRIGERATOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (RP) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

References JP 2001-165557 and JP 11-60758 are not in the English language, but an English abstract thereof is attached to the copy of the reference submitted herewith, and were cited by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of this English language search report, indicating the degree of relevance determined by the foreign patent office is submitted herewith. MPEP Section 609A(3), second paragraph.



This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the abovereferenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515

Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dlm

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449

(2) References Search Report

Dated: September 8, 2004

P.O. Box 980

Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980

(610) 407-0700

EXPRESS MAIL

Mailing Label Number:

Date of Deposit:

EV 426718917 US

September 8, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VAy 22313-1450.

Kathleen Libby

DLM_I:\MAT\8596US\IDS01.DOC



(AW 08/03)

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO	Complete if a nown		
	Application Number	To Be Assigned	7506760
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Filing Date	Herewith	
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)	First Named Inventor	Chie Hirai et al.	
	Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
SHEET 1 of 2	Attorney Docket No.	MAT-8596US	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
		Document Number	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	Cite No. ¹ Num	Number - Kind Code ^{2 (if known)}			
		US-		•	
		US-			
		US-		***	

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (If known)	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	16
		JP 2001-165557 (w/English abstract)	6/22/2001	Matsushita Refrigeration Co.		
		JP 11-60758 (w/English abstract)	3/5/1999	Sumitomo Chemical Co Ltd.		
	ļ					
	ļ					
Examiner Signature				Date Considered		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not *EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

2 See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

4 for Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.

4 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Janguage translation is attached.



(AW 08/03)

Substitute for Form 1449B/PTO	Complete it know 506760		
	Application Number	To Be Assigned	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Filing Date	Herewith	
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	First Named Inventor	Chie Hirai et al.	
(Use as many sheets as necessary)	Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
SHEET 2 of 2	Attorney Docket No.	MAT-8596US	

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T²	
		International Search Report corresponding to application no. PCT/JP02/02333 dated June 25, 2002.	⊠	
Examiner	 	Date		

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

'Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

'Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form. call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not